538. During the year, the Ration Card system of distribution which played an important role for over a decade was discontinued from 1st July 1954 thus removing the last vestiges of controlled distribution of foodgrains. The complete decontrol of rice from 10th July 1954 notified by the Government of India was a further decisive step in the direction of elimination of all controls. This enabled the normal channels of trade to function again and foodgrains became available in plenty in the open market. Rationing.

539. The sugar supply position continued to remain satisfactory during the year. Sugar.

540. As during the preceding year, the entire transport work of the department was got done by private transport contractors the rates being fixed on the basis of tenders. Food Transport.

541. The system of procuring supplies of fuel direct from the suppliers on Government account and distribution of the same through the licensed retail dealers was continued in the Bangalore Corporation area during the year. In view of the relaxation of control, fuel stocks moved to Bangalore freely and the supply position was consequently quite satisfactory. A total quantity of 44,374 tons of fuel to Bangalore Civil supplies was supplied through the Government Agency, and a sum of Rs. 35,052 was realised by way of commission on the issues made to the licensees. Fuel Supplies.

542. In view of the satisfactory position of supplies of fuel, Government removed the restriction imposed on the movement and price of firewood and charcoal in all parts of the State from 31st March 1955.

(ii) Food Production.

543. The Department of Food Production continued to work during the year, and the assistance received from the Government of India was distributed among the following works:—

I. Works Schemes.

These Schemes include mostly irrigation works such as sinking of irrigation wells, construction of major

irrigation works, restoration of major and minor tanks, construction and improvement of river, tank, and feeder channels, lift irrigation in river valleys, land improvement works including land reclamation, construction of pick-up anes, etc.

(*a*) *Construction of Irrigation wells.*—This scheme is intended to afford irrigation facilities to the ryots depending on well irrigation. A subsidy up to a limit of Rs. 250 per well in all parts of the State was sanctioned to the ryots for sinking irrigation wells. In addition to the above, a loan up to a limit of Rs. 750 was also made available wherever it was applied for. During the year, 1,091 irrigation wells were sunk, benefiting an area of about 2,182 acres.

(*b*) *Construction of Major Irrigation Works.*—The Scheme comprises the construction of new tanks, putting earthen bunds across streamlets, putting up masonry anecuts and drawing channels therefrom; twenty big works were programmed for execution during the year, of which 18 big works were in progress.

(*c*) *Restoration of Major and Minor Tanks.*—The importance of restoring major and minor tanks in order to ensure assured supply of water to the existing atchkat was mainly kept in view, and a programme for restoring 192 major and minor tanks all over the State was taken up. The restoration of 298 minor tanks was completed, benefiting an area of 9,524 acres of old atchkat. The estimated additional production derived consequent on these works was 1,594 tons.

(*d*) *Lift Irrigation in River Valleys.*—This scheme is meant for extending irrigation facilities to the holders of dry lands on river banks by supplying water through high powered lift irrigation pumps, installed at Government costs.

(*f*) *Land Improvement Schemes.*—Under this Scheme, an extent of 3,000 acres was benefited during the year resulting in an estimated additional production of 1,500 tons of foodgrains.

II. Supply Schemes.

(*a*) *Distribution of Seeds and Manures.*—The Scheme for Multiplication and Distribution of improved varieties

of paddy seeds and that for distributing fertilisers on the same basis as in the previous years were in operation during the year. Two hundred and twenty-five tons of improved paddy seeds and 10,677 tons of fertilisers were distributed benefiting an area of 1,24,770 acres. The estimated additional production derived from these schemes during the year was 14,246 tons.

(*b*) *Preparation and distribution of Urban Compost.*—As in previous years, the Scheme for encouraging the preparation and use of urban compost was pursued on a systematic basis. In order to persuade the ryots to use the municipal compost produced under the scheme, a transportation subsidy of rupees two per ton was given to the ryots for transporting the compost to their lands from the Municipalities concerned.

(*c*) *Supply of Agricultural Implements.*—The Department continued to procure the requirements of iron through the Central pool during the year and the same was distributed to the ryots through the agency of the Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies and the Departmental Depots. Implements costing Rs. 6,80,528 were supplied through the several distributing centres to the ryots.

(*d*) *Tractor and Bulldozer Service.*—The main feature of the Tractor Organisation in the State consisted in affording the much needed services of tractors, bulldozers, and lorries for agricultural operations to the ryots all over the State.

(*e*) *Supply of Tractor, Diesel Oil and Electrical pumpsets and Persian Wheels on Hire Purchase System.*—The Electrical Department continued to distribute electrical pumpsets to the ryots under hire purchase system.

(*f*) *Supply of new as well as used Tractors of the Department to Ryots on Hire Purchase basis.*—The main features of the scheme were that one tractor and implements up to a maximum value of Rs. 20,000 could be allotted to each ryot, subject to his furnishing security in the shape of landed properties (free from all encumbrances), the value of which had to be not less than one and a half times the value of the tractor and implements. The hirer had besides to offer two personal solvent sureties, and execute a hire purchase agreement along with the sureties

and his major sons, if any, for repayment of the loan in five equal annual instalments, with interest at five per cent per annum.

Three tractors valued Rs. 37,231 were issued during the year. Twenty-five used tractors were sold up to the end of 1953-54.

(*g*) *Extension of Power Supply to Irrigation pumpsets.*—This scheme is intended to extend electric power to the irrigation pumpsets installed to the wells of the ryots. The Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 60 lakhs for the scheme, and as a result of intensive work, 1,214 pumpsets were serviced during the year. It is estimated that an area of 3,642 acres was benefited, the estimated additional production derived therefrom being 1,821 tons.

III. Service and Miscellaneous Schemes.

These consist of the following :—

(*a*) Protection of food crops against pests and diseases.

(*b*) Double cropping Programme.

(*c*) Grant of lands for cultivation.

(*d*) Bringing fallow lands under plough.

(*e*) Intensive Paddy Cultivation under Japanese Method.

(*f*) Crops Competitions.

(*g*) Bangalore City Sewage Utilisation Scheme.

(*h*) Mysore City Sewage Utilisation Scheme.

and (*i*) Agricultural Statistics and Meteorology.

544. Among the double cropping Schemes an area of 1,62,938 acres was taken up for cultivation and this resulted in an estimated additional production of 51,469 tons of foodgrains.

545. Under the grant of lands for cultivation, a total extent of 38,178 acres of Government lands was granted to the ryots for cultivation during the year. The additional production derived from this scheme was estimated to be 3,818 tons.

546. The total extent benefited by operation of all the Grow More Food Schemes was 5,34,864 acres. The

additional production of food grains realised during the year on the basis of the yard sticks adopted by the Department, worked out to 2,44,927 tons.

547. On the whole the ryots throughout the State were quite enthusiastic to take advantage of the various schemes of the Department for stepping up food production to the maximum extent in the best interests of all concerned in the State.

(iii) Civil Supplies.

548. The department of Civil Supplies continued to administer the following Textile Control Orders during the year :—

1. The Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948.
2. The Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1948.
3. The Cotton Textiles (Export Control) Order, 1949.
4. The Mysore Cotton Cloth Dealers Licensing Order, 1948.
5. The Mysore Cotton Yarn (Control of Distribution) and Order, 1948.

549. The complete removal of Price and Distribution Controls on all varieties of cloth and yarn during the previous year had no adverse effect on the supply position of cloth and yarn in the State during the year.

550. The licensing of all classes of dealers in cloth and yarn was continued during the year and in view of the very satisfactory supply position of cloth and yarn in the market, licenses to deal in cloth and yarn were liberally issued.

551. Although the Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1948, was continued to be enforced in the State, special transport permits were freely issued in favour of dealers for the movement of cloth and yarn outside the State.

552. The Cement Rationing and Licensing Order, 1948, and the Bellary Cement Rationing and Licensing Order, 1954, promulgated during August 1954, were repealed and were replaced by the Mysore Cement Cement.